

Pride on the sleeve

Members of Madison Equality hand out free “gay? fine by me” T-shirts to students on the commons yesterday afternoon. The T-shirt giveaway was an event during Madison Equality’s GayMU week. Madison Equality is a JMU organization that supports gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students. The primary mission of the club is to promote tolerance and acceptance through education and awareness.



JAMES CHUNG / THE BREEZE

JMU buys corner property

\$1.55 million purchase complete, JMU unsure of future use



SABRINA MCCORMACK / THE BREEZE

The property on the corner of Mason Street and MLK Way was purchased by JMU and was finalized on Tuesday.

JMU purchased a property on the corner of Mason Street and Martin Luther King, Jr. way yesterday for \$1.55 million.

The transaction, which officially went through yesterday, was approved at the October 2013 Board of Visitors meeting, according to Bill Wyatt, JMU’s associate director of communications.

Because the building currently serves as an apartment complex, JMU is “honoring” those who are leasing there.

However, Wyatt said that there aren’t definite plans for the use of the building.

There is a proposal pending for a hotel and conference center, but at this point, JMU is unsure of where they’re at in the process, or if the proposal will move forward, according to Wyatt.

All that is for certain right now is that the property, which is located across the street from the University Health Center, won’t be available until 2015 and will be used by the university.

-staff report

SGA passes sensitive resolutions

Approval given for GayMU supporters

By PATRICK MORTIERE AND WILLIAM MASON
The Breeze

Amid recent outrage and dissent by certain members of the JMU community over Madison Equality’s GayMU event, the Student Government Association quickly passed a resolution to support Madison Equality’s GayMU week, which recently came under fire from anti-LGBTQ members on JMU’s campus.

SGA also followed in the footsteps of Faculty Senate by passing a resolution expressing its support for faculty’s efforts to end discrimination on campus. Also on the agenda were resolutions dealing with collegiate housing, substance-free housing and financial procedures amendments.

Aaron Brown, treasurer-elect of SGA and junior public policy and administration and political science double major, jointly drafted one resolution alongside Taylor Vollman, president-elect of SGA and a junior media arts and design major. The resolution was in response to recently abrasive rhetoric directed towards Madison Equality and the LGBTQ community on campus, specifically the GayMU event.

Certain members of JMU’s community expressed that their liberties

see SGA, page 4

MAD FOR MUSIC



BECKY SULLIVAN / THE BREEZE

Behind-the-scenes look at the collaborative efforts of Madipalooza

Festival celebrates its fourth year of bringing quality music to JMU

By MOLLIE JONES
The Breeze

Not just anyone can organize and coordinate a university music festival. It takes the collaborative efforts of University Program Board members as well as the Madipalooza committee of students and staff to put on the festival.

“Choosing the bands is a year-long process,” Whitney Smith, center stage director for University Program Board and junior health sciences major, said. “There’s a lot of research done. First, where we find bands and look up availability along with a survey

that’s sent out, and then we work with a middle agent to talk about pricing and the band’s needs on arrival.”

Smith worked with a committee of about 35 to book names such as Ryan Cabrera and electronic artist Magic Man for this year’s Madipalooza.

Spotlight sound director and junior hospitality management major Sarah Gordon worked with the committee to book local bands such as Mammoth Indigo and The Fighting Jamesons, an Irish band that plays traditional

see WORK, page 10

By LAUREN HUNT
The Breeze

Once a year, Festival lawn is transformed into something completely new. Stages will be assembled, bouncy castles will be inflated and tables of food will be set up in preparation for the mass of students that will flood the fourth annual Madipalooza.

The “Festival at Festival” was first created in 2011 to provide students with a fun, on-campus event to attend in the spring.

“We wanted to revive the idea of having something on campus for students in the

spring,” Steve Bobbitt, the associate director of programming at the University Recreation Center and former Madipalooza co-chair, said. “There had been some negative things that had happened in the past and there was a group of us that said ‘let’s sit down and see if we can come up with an idea that will give students an opportunity to celebrate and have a good time in a positive environment.’”

The first decision was what kind of event to put together. The group wanted music to be a big component to attract

see HISTORY, page 10

Tens across the board

Club gymnastics wins the NAIGC Nationals meet this past weekend in Tennessee

By RICHARD BOZEK
The Breeze

The sport of gymnastics is one that some may consider an art more so than a sport.

With no varsity program at JMU, gymnastics finds its home at the club level. The group of men and women who share the love of gymnastics consider themselves a family, and just finished a spring campaign that was one to remember. After a chaotic season, club gymnastics won its first-ever national title on Saturday.

Club gymnastics is made up of individuals at all levels of the sport, from beginners to USA Gymnastics Level 10 (elite status), and consists of two teams — men’s and women’s. The club competes in the National Association for Intercollegiate Gymnastics Clubs and participates in about five meets throughout the school year. However, this season the club discovered that participating in five meets is easier said than done.

During the fall semester, the club competed in two meets — one at

Emory University and one at Virginia Tech. The Dukes placed first at Emory and top three at Virginia Tech.

But the spring semester brought its challenges come meet time. There were no judges at any of the meets this semester, which were held at at home, Liberty University and at the University of Maryland respectively. This made each of those competitions mock meets.

It also brought worries to the team for the NAIGC Nationals meet, which was held April 3-5 in Chattanooga, Tenn.

“We really had no idea where we stood,” senior kinesiology major and club president Maria Hayden said. “It was just kind of going out there hoping for the best.”

But it turns out the team had little to worry about in Chattanooga. The Dukes placed first out of more than 75 teams in all seven preliminary sessions of the meet. In the finals, the Dukes posted a score of 146.075, the highest in club history and a score that

see GYMNASTICS, page 12



COURTESY OF KEVIN O’CONNOR

Maria Hayden, above, won first place all around at this weekend’s National Association for Intercollegiate Gymnastics Clubs Nationals meet.



The Breeze

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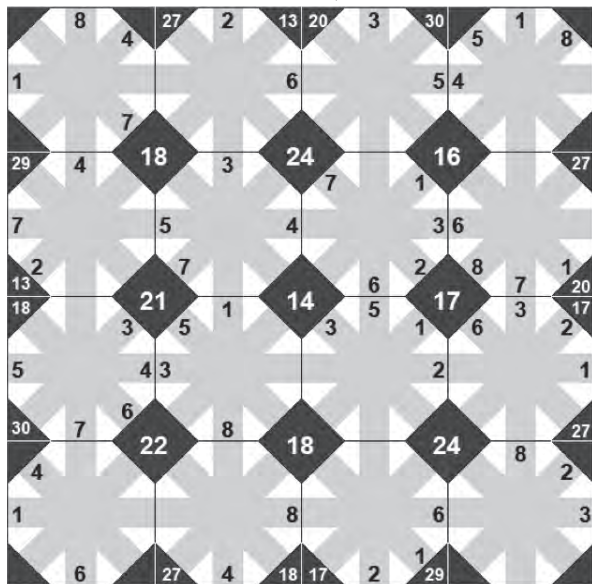
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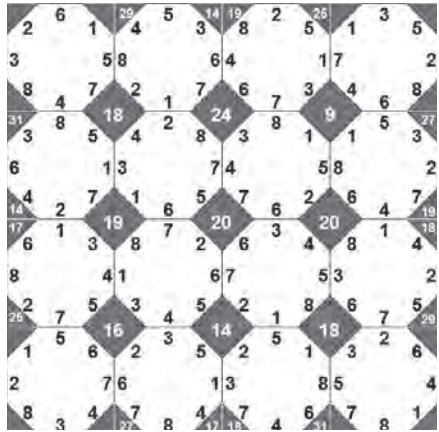
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and posting on our Facebook page!

The OCTO puzzle



Thursday's OCTO solved



WORLD NEWS

Ukraine separatists hold hostages

Los Angeles Times

MOSCOW — Heavily armed separatists held Ukrainian government buildings and hostages Tuesday as tensions increased sharply and threatened to push a dispute over treatment of the country's ethnic Russians into bloodshed.

Ukrainian government officials said pro-Russia separatists had rigged explosives in a building in Luhansk and were holding hostages inside. Officials dispatched a deputy prime minister to another city, Donetsk, to try to negotiate a peaceful solution to the takeover of an administration building in that mining city.

Russia seized control of Ukraine's Crimea region, in the south, with minimal violence in February, but Ukrainian forces have acted forcefully against separatists who took over buildings in the country's east in recent days. On Tuesday, the Ukrainian government said it had cleared hundreds of pro-Russia protesters from a regional administration building in a third city, Kharkiv.

A move in eastern Ukraine would be far more difficult for Russia than

its Crimea seizure was. The region has a sizable ethnic Russian population but, unlike in Crimea, it's a minority. And Crimea was for centuries part of Russia. Analysts say it's crucial for Ukraine's interim government to manage the discord until May 25 elections. The vote is likely to show that the government does have popular support, they said, blunting Russia's argument that Ukraine has been taken over by extremists.

Israel's Netanyahu halts ties with Palestinians

Los Angeles Times

JERUSALEM — Relations between Israeli and Palestinian leaders continued a downward spiral Wednesday with a new Israeli directive to its ministers to halt cooperation with their Palestinian counterparts.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered government ministries to stop high-level communications with corresponding Palestinians, halting assorted economic and civilian cooperation efforts.

Netanyahu's directive was an Israeli response to the "Palestinian abrogation of their commitments and violation of understandings," said an Israeli official speaking on condition of anonymity.

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

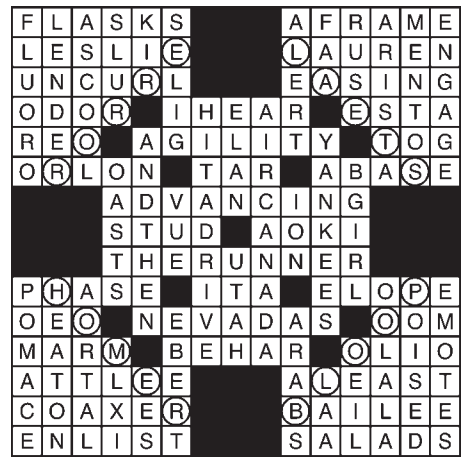
ACROSS

- 1 Biblical kingdom near the Dead Sea
- 5 Blue
- 8 Chew (out)
- 12 Old empire builder
- 13 Construction materials
- 16 Donald's address, in comics
- 17 Like a dotted note, in mus.
- 18 Bob preceder
- 19 Tiny fraction of a min.
- 20 See 4-Down
- 22 See 8-Down
- 24 Dander
- 25 Some tech sch. grads
- 26 Soweto's home: Abbr.
- 27 Great time, in slang
- 28 Rain cloud
- 30 Fair ones
- 32 Julius Caesar's first name
- 33 Said
- 34 Tandoori bread
- 35 See 30-Down
- 36 Grilling sound
- 39 Macduff and Macbeth
- 41 Charity, e.g.
- 43 Slipped past
- 45 Sunday best
- 46 Soccer star Freddy
- 47 ___ Simbel, site of Ramses II temples
- 48 Michaels et al.
- 49 Galoot
- 50 See 51-Down
- 52 See 53-Down
- 54 "Was ___ loud?"
- 55 Having no room for hedging
- 57 '20s tennis great Lacoste
- 58 Designer Saarinen
- 59 Cynical response
- 60 Leftover bits
- 61 40th st.
- 62 Whiz
- 63 "Over here!"

DOWN

- 1 Not where it's expected to be
- 2 Windsor resident
- 3 Scholarly milieu
- 4 With 20-Across, working again, aptly
- 5 Fine cotton threads
- 6 Awards named for a location
- 7 Kids' card game
- 8 With 22-Across, what red hair often does, aptly
- 9 Banner
- 10 Amtrak speedsters
- 11 Store with a star
- 14 Choruses
- 15 Queasy near the quay
- 21 Roman god
- 23 Earned
- 29 Squeeze plays involve them
- 30 With 35-Across, a financially sure thing, aptly
- 31 Pelé's first name
- 33 Jackson follower

Monday's puzzle solved



- 35 1995 Will Smith/Martin Lawrence film
- 37 Running pair
- 38 Malicious types
- 40 Try, as a case
- 41 Record
- 42 Seer's challenge
- 43 Corrected, in a way
- 44 Dawn goddess
- 45 Prefix with carbon

- 46 Gallic girlfriends
- 48 Running back Haynes, first AFL player of the year
- 51 With 50-Across, do some self-examination, aptly
- 53 With 52-Across, trivial amount, aptly
- 56 Equinox mo.

NATIONAL NEWS

Flaw puts Internet security at risk

Los Angeles Times

SAN FRANCISCO—The discovery of a significant flaw in software that was supposed to provide extra protection for thousands of websites has thrown the tech world into chaos as experts scrambled to understand the scope of the vulnerability.

On Tuesday, Tumblr, owned by Yahoo Inc., became the largest website to disclose that it had been hit by the "Heartbleed Bug" and urged users to change not just the password for its site but for all others as well.

Signaling just how much uncertainty and confusion surrounds the glitch, security experts warned that such a gesture might actually be useless because if a site has not fixed the problem hackers could just as easily steal the new password.

Although security analysts wouldn't go as far as telling users to stay off the Internet completely, they said users should avoid doing anything sensitive like online banking. If it's necessary to go online, check to see whether a service has said whether they are affected or whether they have fixed the problem.

Heartbleed Bug is a vulnerability in OpenSSL, a technology used to

provide encryption of an estimated 66 percent of all servers on the public Internet.

OpenSSL is an open-source code developed and maintained by a community of developers, rather than by a single company.

20 stabbed at Pa. high school

Los Angeles Times

MURRYSVILLE— A male student armed with two knives went on a stabbing rampage inside the science wing of a Pennsylvania high school Wednesday morning, injuring at least 20 people, several who suffered life-threatening injuries, officials said.

At least two people were in surgery and a third was waiting to be operated on, a hospital official said.

"None of these are superficial stab wounds. These all have significant stab wounds," said Chris Kaufmann, a trauma surgeon at Forbes Regional Hospital in Monroeville, Pa., which is about seven miles from the site of the stabbing at Franklin Regional Senior High School in Murrysville, Pa., east of Pittsburgh.

The assailant was in custody, emergency officials said.

Compiled from McClatchy-Tribune wire services.

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A tradition of theft

Practice of stealing Quad bricks leaves potentially dangerous walkways



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MARK OWEN / THE BREEZE

Before leaving JMU, some students make a bucket list of things to do before they graduate. One noteworthy item on the list that is growing in popularity is the act of stealing a brick from the Quad.

By **BIANCA MOORMAN**
contributing writer

While walking on the Quad, you have your eyes dead set on the building where your next class will be held. Then, all of a sudden you trip over a hole in the once-smooth walkway. The reason you tripped is because there is a missing brick most likely due to the trend of JMU students stealing them from the Quad.

Stealing bricks has become somewhat of a tradition for some at JMU students to complete before they graduate. This is one of several “bucket list” traditions that has become commonplace, such as streaking the Quad or searching for the Quad tunnels.

Once people have the bricks, they can do with them as they please. Some people paint the bricks with JMU spirit colors, while others let their friends sign them.

While seniors have traditionally stolen bricks in the past, an increased number of underclassmen are beginning the tradition early.

A sophomore physics major, who insisted on anonymity, said that he stole a brick to check off an item from his JMU “bucket list” of things to do before he graduates.

“[It is] a form of symbolism, you have to take a brick from the Quad before you graduate and it is supposed happened when you are a senior, but I did it the spring of my freshman year,” he said.

The student also added that stealing the brick is something

that he will remember from his time here at JMU.

“I am going to take the brick to grad school with me,” the he said. “I let a lot of my friends sign the brick.”

The student also said, the best time to steal from the Quad is at night. There are few students around, so you can remain relatively undetected. He added that if you take regular night strolls you are likely to see at least one person stealing because “people take bricks all the time.”

A sophomore sports recreation and management student, who also insisted on anonymity, said that the reason people steal the bricks are so students can have a piece of JMU with them even after they graduate. She also said that whenever students get homesick in the future they have a brick to look at and remind them of the good times they had at college.

However, the female sophomore stole her brick because she liked the rush of not knowing whether or not she would get caught.

She took a brick last spring semester during her one of the last weeks of her freshman year. She added that she also was happy to cross stealing the brick off her JMU bucket list as well.

Both students said that their parents were shocked after they heard their children had stolen bricks, but the sophomore SRM major explained that her parents understood her action after she told them she did it because it’s part of the JMU tradition.

Even though students are taking bricks, the process of replacing them is not difficult.

Associate Vice President of Business Services Towana Hickman-Moore said they are usually prepared for things like this anyway.

“It has not been a huge issue,” Hickman-Moore said. “The pavement is inspected daily and bricks are replaced when it is necessary.”

The university usually buys extra bricks when they do the original installation of walkways, according to Hickman-Moore.

According to Hickman-Moore, it doesn’t take them a long time to replace the bricks and is not costly because the University plans for bricks to go missing.

The sophomore physics major said that he is not going to steal any more bricks because he knows plenty of other students will steal them, and he doesn’t want to add any extra work for JMU employees.

According to the sophomore SRM major, taking a brick is part of the traditional spirit here at JMU and doing that makes anyone’s time memorable.

“When I graduate from JMU, I will have a part of JMU with me,” said the sophomore student.

While both students took bricks to check the item off their bucket lists, both will have something that will remind them of the wonderful years that they spent here at JMU, even if it’s just a brick.

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The strength of words

Part-time professor Jay Varner embraces the power of a writer to captivate students through writing

By **ARLISS ADOU**
contributing writer

Every Thursday, *The Breeze* will run a Q&A with one of JMU’s professors. This week, we’re featuring part-time writing, rhetoric and technical communication and English professor Jay Varner. Varner grew up in Central Pennsylvania and moved to Virginia in 2007. He started at JMU during the spring semester of 2012.

**You’re from Central Pennsylvania.
How is it similar to JMU?**

It’s really similar ... it was a town and everything around it was – we were in a valley there. We were in the Junietta River Valley which is very similar – much smaller, but kind of geographically similar to the Shenandoah Valley. So you go to town and then outside of town, there are fields, and cattle, and, you know, when the wind blows a certain way, here I get nostalgic ... Of course this is a college town, so there are more kind of artsy student populations. You know, you can go downtown for art, and there’s a bookstore and all of these things. We didn’t have any of that, but we had a town in the way that there was a collection of buildings.

What brought you to Virginia?

My wife and I decided to move to Charlottesville in 2007. We were right out of graduate school in North Carolina, and we just thought Charlottesville seemed nice. Now, this was pre-economic collapse, and I guess we didn’t think that getting jobs and finding places that were affordable to live was ... that wasn’t on our radar.

**You mentioned that you lived in Charlottesville.
How did you come to JMU?**

Charlottesville is expensive. But we liked that area. I love central Virginia, and the landscape – and I love the outdoors a lot, so we kind of ended up there. And I had gone to grad school for three years, and kind of needed a break from higher-ed for a little bit. I thought it’d be a good experience in the “real world.” So you know, I worked in an office and ran a tutoring company for a while and things like that, but I definitely wanted to get back into teaching. And JMU – I was lucky enough that it just kind of came through.

What impact do teachers have on a student’s college career?

When I went to college, I felt out of place, I felt behind when I got there, and to have a teacher – somebody that you respect – take an interest in you, to compliment



JAMES CHUNG / THE BREEZE

Jay Varner believes teaching in a nurturing setting prepares students for invaluable knowledge and success later on in life.

you or challenge you ... doing it in a nurturing way that makes you wanna succeed is invaluable ... it causes you to do better, it makes you step up and it causes those around you to step up, so it’s infectious in some ways. And to get a chance to do what people who made such an influence on me did is amazing.

What is your core passion in teaching – your primary motivation for doing it?

I think the thing that’s so interesting about writing is the power that a writer has to capture an audience – to capture another person’s attention – with the story or ideas that you tell. I see that all the time as trying to use language as advocacy for citizenship. Things that even for people who don’t go on the path to become a writer still needs to know how to write and communicate effectively. And that’s exciting because there’s a study that came out last year that one of the top things that employers were looking for in new college graduates for what they needed

is communication skills. And writing is such a huge part of that – of knowing how to utilize language, knowing how to apply it across the spectrum – in different fields, different mediums, and different venues. Using that to your advantage and using it to your employer’s advantage one day – that’s fun. For creative nonfiction, which I teach for English, I think the thing I love most is this ability to take stories that, you know, all of us have stories inside of us and we’re like, “Oh, who cares about that, that’s not important to anybody.” But there’s a universal reality in whatever emotion you’re experiencing and its being able to craft that story in a way that will connect to other people that shows character, that shows detail, and shows an attempt to actually understand these experiences that we all go through. And it’s in doing that that someone reads it and understands theirs even better. And that’s the thing that writing is, just this form of connection that humans have, and that’s never going to go away ... Whether it’s in an office place or on your iPad before you go to bed, whatever you’re reading is going to connect with you on some level.

Can you tell us about the tutoring company you worked for in Charlottesville?

Champion Tutoring in Charlottesville. I had a lot of students that I worked with who wanted to go to JMU, and during that time, I got to learn a lot about the Virginia college system, and, you know, which colleges are good and which colleges have very good programs for this and so forth. And I quickly learned that JMU was really competitive to get in to. And it was just kind of an exciting spot to be in. So there was a position that came over kind of mid-semester – I think it was ... January 2011 ... So, I started in January of 2011 and just kind of came in. I got the call a couple of days before Christmas – it was a nice kind of holiday.

What is the one thing that keeps you pressing on when things get hard, whether it be life, or a difficult student or students?

You know I don’t feel like that a lot – at least with teaching – because I know that no matter what, there’s always at least one person in class and often many more than that who do take risks, who do wanna challenge themselves, and I think the great thing about what I do and with writing is that I get to work so closely with students and get to know them at a really intimate level sometimes – with their writing and with the things that they share, and it’s that ability of making that connection.

CONTACT Arliss Adou at adouam@dukes.jmu.edu.

SGA | Five resolutions passed in under an hour during Tuesday's meeting

from front

were violated when Madison Equality sent out emails to students advertising its upcoming GayMU events, which aimed to highlight homosexuality on campus and encourage acceptance.

"It came after the diversity talks on Monday, after hearing more in detail about what Madison Equality was going through, and seeing the backlash of select individuals from campus attacking GayMU and Madison Equality," Brown said. "What we got out of the diversity discussions was that we need to create a culture of acceptance and tolerance and love for each other — for your fellow Dukes."

The proposal submitted by Brown and Vollman stated, "the Student Government Association shows full support for all members of the LGBTQ community and publicly supports Madison Equality, GayMU and all events which promote inclusion and acceptance of all members of the Madison community."

Once submitted, the resolution was referred to committee where it was deliberated and ultimately considered during this week's senate meeting. The resolution was put to a voice vote, by which it passed unanimously with no audible traces of opposition.

Despite criticism from certain groups of individuals, Brown believes JMU is a generally tolerant and welcoming community toward homosexuality, and encourages even more open displays of acceptance.

"We as a campus, we all tolerate and have tolerance for everyone for being who they are, and being accepting of other people for their differences, but I feel that we sometimes don't express that," Brown said. "There are people in the community that do have negative feelings toward homosexuals, but there are lots of people who are also in support."

During the JMU Faculty Senate meeting in February, President Jon Alger spoke to members about his concerns on campus, particularly the detail that those in same-sex domestic partnerships are not both covered by JMU's benefits package. He described it as an issue of competitiveness and civil rights.

Faculty Senate passed a proposal during its meeting that piggybacked off the language of William & Mary's Faculty Assembly's proposal made last September.

JMU's proposal stated, "The Faculty Senate of James Madison University resolves that all benefits associated with employment at James Madison University should be extended to all

employees as appropriate to their employment status, without regard to sexual orientation or gender identity."

Alger was clear to specify during the meeting that despite this proposal, he is still unable to extend benefits to both same-sex partners, according to Virginia's laws.

The sentiments of the proposal were nonetheless echoed by SGA in their resolution supporting the procurement of benefits for faculty and staff in same-sex domestic partnerships.

The resolution declared that SGA supports the same-sex domestic partner benefits resolution passed by the Faculty Senate, and they stand beside the university to help eliminate discrimination of people with regards to sexual identity.

In February, a federal judge declared Virginia's ban on same-sex marriage unconstitutional, and overturned an amendment ratified by Virginia constituents in 2006. Despite this ruling, however, same-sex marriage still remains illegal in Virginia, along with the benefits that come with marriage.

"Even though it's not allowed by the state, we hope that this pushes the administration and JMU to start lobbying in favor for this and really getting the changes to happen," Brown said.

Just like the Madison Equality resolution, the same-sex benefits resolution was agreed upon unanimously by voice vote, but only after a small amendment, which altered the wording of the resolution to cover not only faculty, but staff as well.

Though Josh Humphries, a sophomore political science major, didn't match up ideologically with the proposal, he still helped submit it to committee and supported it during the meeting.

"My own personal views about gay marriage are different than the resolution, but I think it's important that as we're here at JMU, we need to realize that not everyone is the same, not everyone shares the same views, and it's about the way in which you express those views," Humphries said.

Another proposal on the docket was consideration for greater availability for substance-free housing on campus. Humphries submitted the resolution, which was reviewed during the meeting.

"I valued the experience of living in a substance-free dorm so much, I had such a great experience, that I wanted at least to afford to opportunity to other students that expressed the same views as I did when I was incoming," Humphries said.

The resolution was aimed at providing a substance-free living areas for students who reside on campus and don't wish to be around alcohol or tobacco products. This may be for reasons such as health conditions, beliefs or the desire to ease the transition into a college

student without distractions.

Substance-free residence halls began at JMU in 1996 with the designation of Shorts Hall and Ashby Hall for freshmen and upperclassmen, respectively. Bell Hall was later added to the list, but support for the program eventually diminished, and by Fall 2008 JMU began phasing out these halls.

Eventually the SGA decided to amend the proposal to designate for a substance-free community floor.

While every residence hall on campus follows state laws and JMU policies for alcohol and drugs, Humphries makes the distinction that the community within substance-free housing is held more accountable for their actions.

"Substance-free, from what I understand, is a heightened level of scrutiny on the individual," Humphries said. "It's no tobacco or alcohol, so that's one thing. And I'm of legal age to smoke, so I could do that, but I choose not to."

Another resolution dealing with student housing was proposed by Estelle Mitchell, a junior political science major, but because of her absence at the meeting, the resolution was discussed on behalf of Nick Maggio, a junior public policy and administration major.

According to Maggio, the resolution aims to support JMU students, specifically those living off campus. The proposal supports a push to improve infrastructure for off-campus housing, and to provide more affordable housing for students at the same time.

The fifth and final resolution brought up during the meeting was proposed by Brown, and included several amendments to the financial procedures of SGA. The proposal eliminated weekly meetings between the speaker and the student senate, as well as lowered the amount of funds an organization can request in an effort to encourage fundraising.

All five of the resolutions proposed and discussed by the SGA senate Tuesday evening passed with few snags, and according to Vollman, the salience and support of the topics streamlined the deliberation process.

"These resolutions were things that were pretty universally accepted within the senate, so that's why it passed," Vollman said. "And a lot of people were aware of them ahead of time and had their questions answered."

Vollman will assume the position of student body president later this month, and already has plans to encourage the spread of diversity and openness on campus. Despite SGA's influence, she believes a concerted effort is needed to see change at JMU.

"I think internally we're a pretty open group, but to try to make sure that the rest of the university is is something that we can't do on our own," Vollman said.

CONTACT Patrick Mortiere and William Mason at breezenews@gmail.com.



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RACHEL PETTY | Petty for your thoughts

Luck of the draw?



SABRINA MCCORMACK / THE BREEZE

Upperclassmen dorms like Converse Hall are difficult to reserve a room in. This is because of the randomization of the Office of Residence Life housing process.

Upperclassmen housing lottery used by the Office of Residence Life is unfair and ineffective



JMU is currently in the process of online room selection for upperclassmen in the 2014-15 school year. As a sophomore-to-be who will be living in Chandler Hall next year, I certainly have some things to say about this process. Chandler is not too bad, but as a current honors

student living in Shenandoah Hall, this will still be a big adjustment.

Let's explore the method of assigning lottery numbers to students. Oh wait, there is no method — it's completely random. I think this is the biggest problem.

Many other schools I have visited or that my friends attend have point systems that dictate who gets the best lottery number for online room selection, like Marist College in New York. Points can be earned by having a high GPA, doing community service or extracurricular activities.

Allison Zeppuher, an honors student who will also be living in Chandler Hall next year said, "It's not cool that I didn't really have an option of where to live, because where I live affects the way I study."

It would be nice if JMU could implement a system so students would earn high lottery numbers rather than have to get lucky to receive them.

Some of you may be wondering why my friends and I chose not to live in Shenandoah again. Living in this hall has been an awesome experience, but we wanted a change. The four of us decided to face the odds and try to get high

enough lottery numbers to get a suite on the Quad.

After checking out the available Bluestone dorms for on-campus contract holders (Converse, Ashby and Spotswood), we were taken aback by the room size. I am aware that most dorms don't have spacious rooms, but I am also aware that both Hoffman Hall and Logan Hall (both also on the Quad) are much bigger and nicer than Ashby and Spotswood. It would make sense to me that these dorms would be available to upperclassmen rather than incoming freshmen.

If a point system were to be implemented, lottery numbers would be earned rather than given out randomly, which seems fairer to me.

Since our best lottery number was 612, we decided that Converse was out of the picture. At this point, we assumed our best option would be to find two more people and try to get into the Village. After meeting two girls, we added them to our roommate group and assumed it would be easy to get a suite. We were wrong.

The Office of Residence Life separates online

room selection into three days: fill a suite day, fill a room day and fill a space day. Since not all suites were available on fill a suite day, we could not get one and were forced to separate into groups of two and wait until fill a room day.

This seems very unfair. We had the correct number of people to fill a suite and were not able to get one since they were not all released during fill a suite day.

After waiting for our time slot during fill a room day, all the rooms available in Bluestone, Village and Shenandoah were filled, we were left with two options — Chandler or Rockingham. We decided to live in Chandler since Rockingham is inconvenient and still requires an on-campus meal plan even though it is physically off campus.

JMU's online room selection could clearly use some improvements, as many students will get poor lottery numbers and end up unhappy with their living situation. If a point system were to be implemented, lottery numbers would be earned rather than given out randomly, which seems fairer to me.

As I'm sure you can tell, none of us were too thrilled with this result. We had the option to separate our roommate groups and hope to end up in the same room on fill a space day, but were not willing to take this risk.

There is an option to complete a summer room change request, but there is no guarantee that you will receive it. As of now, we will be living in Chandler Hall and will make the best of it.

Rachel Petty is a freshman media arts and design major. Contact Rachel at pettyrb@dukes.jmu.edu.

NAHLA ABOUTABL |

contributing columnist

Mental health is never an excuse

The Fort Hood shooter shouldn't get sympathy

It seems as though every time a shooting happens in America, it's blamed on mental health issues as long as the shooter is not a minority. I don't know much about mental health problems (I've only ever taken one psychology class), but what I do know is that anyone who makes the decision to use any weapon to kill innocent people definitely has mental issues. A stable-minded and rational individual would not go on shooting sprees, or similar atrocities would occur much more often than they already do.

Still, mental health is almost used to excuse the shooter's behavior or lessen their punishment by lawyers and psychologists in our justice system. The recent shooting at Fort Hood earlier this month is just one of many examples in which the shooter's mental stability has been used to lessen the gravity of their actions. Yes, the shooter is dead and there's not much people can do to test these claims, but we should not be made to sympathize with killers.

Ivan Lopez killed three individuals and wounded 16 others, but all I see on news media outlets (specifically CNN) is how hard it must've been to be Lopez and how he ironically "vented on Facebook" about the Sandy Hook shooting before his own deadly actions. Since when is venting on Facebook a sign of mental health issues, and why is it a factor in how we're supposed to view the killer? Don't we all vent and complain about our lives on social media? What does this say to others who might be planning on going on shooting sprees? There has to be a strict precedent that doesn't allow for loopholes or ways to lessen the impact of such events so that society takes heed and learns that such actions are not excusable.

Another point I'd like to express is Lopez's Puerto Rican ethnicity. Had this man been of Muslim background, mental health would not have even been on the table. Instead the media would sensationalize this event with more stereotypes, furthering the ignorance towards American Muslims that is present today. Imagine for a moment if the shooter's name was not Ivan Lopez, but Ahmed Abdullah (a typical Muslim name).

Based on previous occurrences, there is no doubt in my heart that the conversation would not just set aside this new shooter's mental health, but would include the words "terrorism," "planned" and "not working alone." The media would waste no time in finding what mosque, if any, that the shooter attended and would start to draw conclusions on this man's religious "jihadist" beliefs.

I'm appalled at how the media is handling this shooting. Three people have lost their lives. Three families have lost their loved ones. Many friends will no longer spend time with the fallen. Yet, stories like the Malaysian flight are still making headlines while this shooter is seen almost as a victim, and whose rants on Facebook somehow tell us all we need to know about his mental health situation. I'm also appalled at the obvious and disgusting double standard that the media never fails to abide by when it comes to Muslim and non-Muslim criminals and lunatics. There's no justice in hypocrisy, and use of this double standard is more hypocrisy than needed when it comes to equality before the law.

Nahla Aboutabl is a sophomore political science and international affairs double major. Contact Nahla at aboutanm@dukes.jmu.edu.

DARTS & PATS

Darts & Pats are anonymously submitted and printed on a space-available basis. Submissions creatively depict a given situation, person or event and do not necessarily reflect the truth.

Submit Darts & Pats at breezejmu.org

A "treat-trees-kindly" dart to the Student Success Center for cutting down the entire row of trees in front of the completed building on Martin Luther King, Jr. Way last week.

From a student who thinks the new building is nice, but that nature is niftier.

A "protect-your-fellow-students" dart to the girl driving a car with a Breast Cancer Awareness license plate who was texting while driving in the rain.

From someone who thinks if you're smart enough to support cancer research, you should be smart enough to keep your eyes on the road.

A "monkeys-bowling-coconuts" pat to the coolest interns I've ever met.

From "Uncle Laura" who can't imagine leaving you guys so soon.

A "Dukes-come-in-all-sizes" dart to the Duke Dog auditions for having a 5-feet-10-inch height requirement.

From a student of short stature and tall JMU pride.

A "O-for-7" dart to MyMadison for semiannually screwing up my registration yet again.

From a junior who has yet to schedule a semester without having a website problem.

A "break-a-leg" pat to the Dukes involved in "Much Ado About Nothing" for their opening week!

From a proud member of Stratford Players.

A "thanks-for-always-being-there" pat to the Nap Nook for all the times you've saved me during a stressful week.

From a senior struggling just to make it to class everyday and who appreciates a relaxing place to chill out.

A "sweeping-the-sweepstakes" pat to all who contributed to The Breeze's statewide award.

From a graduating editor who feels that all the 12-hour workdays were worth it.

A "that's-not-the-JMU-way" dart to all the folks complaining about their late enrollment appointments.

From an alumnus who remembers how stressful it was when it was random and wishes you were grateful to be getting a fantastic education.

Editorial Policies

The Breeze welcomes and encourages readers to voice their opinions through letters and guest columns. Letters must be no longer than 250 words. Guest columns must be no more than 650 words.

The Breeze reserves the right to edit submissions for length, grammar and if material is libelous, factually inaccurate or unclear. The Breeze assumes the rights to any published work. Opinions expressed in this page, with the exception of editorials, are not necessarily those of The Breeze or its staff.

Letters and guest columns should be submitted in print or via e-mail and must include name, phone number, major/year if author is a current student (or year of graduation), professional title (if applicable) and place of residence if author is not a JMU student.

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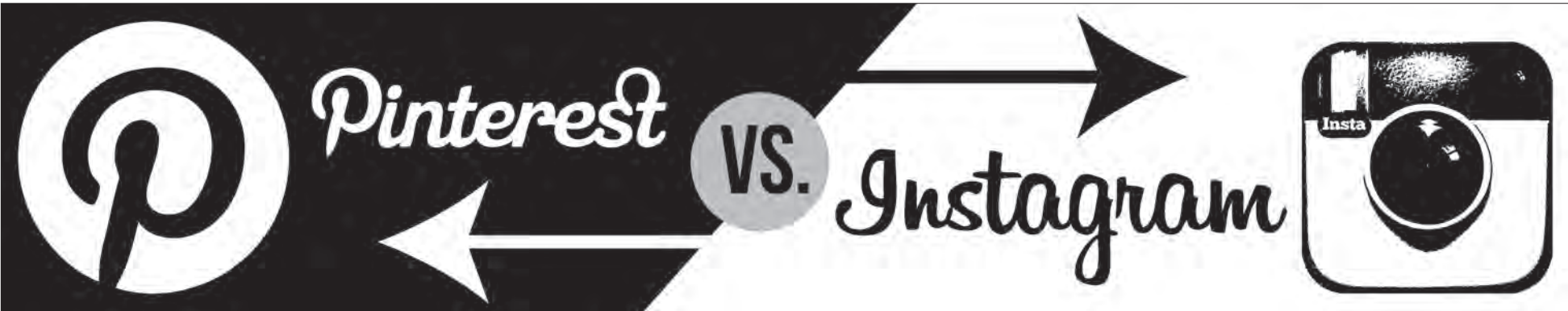
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"To the press alone, chequered as it is with abuses, the world is indebted for all the triumphs which have been gained by reason and humanity over error and oppression."

— JAMES MADISON, 1800

Two students weigh in on which social media platform they feel is the best



BLAIR ROSEN / THE BREEZE

EMILY BIRKETT | contributing columnist

The Internet can be a frightening place sometimes. There are websites full of creepy fangirl-created memes (I’m looking at you, Tumblr) and others ridden with immature political debates and/or daily drivel (that would be our beloved Facebook). But happily, there are many other sites to peruse.

One of the most recent and quickly-rising social media websites is Pinterest. When I first entered the magical realm of Pinterest I felt like the Ariel in “The Little Mermaid” when she pushed open the door to her cave of treasures. I just looked around and marveled at all the “thingamabobs” and “whozits” and “whatzits” everywhere. Pinterest is almost a world where time stops. There are gourmet chocolate cake recipes and invigorating Zumba workouts and simple patterns for making stuffed animals, and basically every other delightful kind of thing. Would you like to learn how to make your own laundry detergent? Pinterest it. Looking for a new 30-day ab series to start? Pinterest will have one. Need an inspirational quote for a friend? Go to Pinterest’s quotes section.

But Pinterest is more than collecting virtual things – it’s about learning.

College students know all about Pinterest, and I’d bet there isn’t a girl on campus who doesn’t have an account. According to TechCrunch, a technology news website, Pinterest just recently landed a whopping 11.7 million visitors in the U.S. and 70 million worldwide. Facebook still leads as the website most time is spent on, but Pinterest is steadily joining the ranks of the most-frequented social media sites. I would even assert that Pinterest will beat out Facebook eventually.

Unlike Facebook (a people-centric site), Pinterest focuses on the products of people — ideas, recipes, quotes, clothing designs and photographs — just to name a few.

While reconnecting with old friends and connecting with new ones is wonderful, there is almost a competitive feel to Facebook. Looking at friends’ pictures and statuses and comparing their jobs, relationships and lives to our own can cause feelings of inferiority and discontent. Many users deactivate their accounts for exactly that reason. Pinterest avoids this problem purely because everything on the website is shared. If everything on my friend’s fashion board was actually hers, I would be jealous. However, I can easily pin the items from her board onto mine.

The point of Pinterest is to share. By “following” a friend (or anyone with similar or interesting taste/style), your pins will show up on their homepage. Likewise, their pins will show up on your home feed.

If you are interested in a particular area, you can follow someone from that field or gather pins related to that topic. I am a writing, rhetoric and technical communication major and I have a writing board with grammar tips, encouraging quotes and other miscellaneous bits of helpful information.

But Pinterest is more than collecting virtual things — it’s about learning. If you are a new mother, there are countless pins with information about making your own baby food or making your own swaddling cloth. The same holds true if you’re an aspiring artist, carpenter or quilter. Pinterest inspires creativity. Even I, a completely non-crafty person, have been compelled to develop my artistic abilities by following directions and tutorials found under the Arts & Crafts section.

So if you’re tired of going online and reading about how your ex-best friend’s sister got back into a “relationship” with that guy she dumped a year ago, or how your high-school friend is “tired and about to make dinner,” try opening up Pinterest instead — you never know what you’ll find.

Emily Birkett is a junior writing, rhetoric and technical communication major. Contact Emily at birketel@dukes.jmu.edu.

CAROLINE ALKIRE | contributing columnist

“Finishing up” — the words every Instagramer loves to see in the white bar at the top of the photo feed after perfectly editing a clever picture. There’s somewhat of a thrill associated with sharing a photo on Instagram, and this feeling cannot be denied by anyone who has any sort of passion for social media.

Every technology guru (aka the entire student body) has a preference when it comes to choosing favorites regarding social media sites. There are so many options — Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, LinkedIn, Instagram, Snapchat, YikYak, etc. — and choosing just one to be deemed the best can be an exhausting task.

Instagram is a fairly new social media application in which users post edited photos onto a Twitter timeline-esque photo feed. According to *Forbes*, it took social media by storm hitting 50 million users only 19 months after its original debut in October of 2010.

It’s a captivating process: choosing one picture out of 50 options, carefully cropping the photo, adding the perfect filter, and creating the caption. There’s more thought and planning involved than composing a Tweet or creating a new board on Pinterest; therefore, when the finished project is finally posted, it almost feels like a piece of art has been completed. It’s more personal than just putting 20 photos up on Facebook. Instagram demands personality from its users, and other sites don’t necessarily have the same personal quality.

Instagram is all about creativity and expression. Browsing through another’s Instagram can show a person the world through a different set of eyes. Photo feeds are rarely filled with drama between friends, or annoying updates about a person’s day.

Another overlooked aspect of Instagram that makes it stand out is the amount of real-world culture and experiences a person can learn about. There are countless accounts to follow that people from all over the world update on a daily basis. Reporters from Egypt post pictures of political events, the Kardashians post more pictures of themselves, Barack Obama shares a picture from Michelle’s birthday dinner and a dog

lover in London posts pictures in Trafalgar Square. Instagram connects people from all parts of the globe who live completely different lifestyles.

Instagram is all about creativity and expression. Browsing through another’s Instagram can show a person the world through a different set of eyes. Photo feeds are rarely filled with drama between friends, or annoying updates about a person’s day.

What many people may not realize about this particular social media application is that yes, Instagram is a phone app, but it is also a company that promotes creativity and expression. Instagram has a blog on Tumblr and an account on Instagram (@instagram). Every day @instagram features photos posted by Instagramers from all around the world that truly show the beauty and diversity of culture.

Although the song “#Selfie” may accurately portray what Instagram means to some people in the younger generation (“I only got 10 likes in the last five minutes. Do you think I should take it down?”), it is so much more than just the number of likes a user gets on a picture from a night out ... although a lot of likes is always a plus. It is a fun way to share an experience in just one photo. People say pictures can say a thousand words, and that is exactly what Instagram does.

Caroline Alkire is a sophomore media arts and design and writing, rhetoric and technical communication double major. Contact Caroline at alkireca@dukes.jmu.edu.

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- You agree to not in any way obstruct this effort.
- You agree that the needs of the many come before the privileges of the few.

This will be a wide open convention where all problems, solutions, and ideas will be explored. Given the magnitude of this endeavor your interests and expertise will be accommodated to the extent possible. Since the JMU community is the first to be solicited for nostalgic reasons, any interested volunteers will be at the forefront of this effort. In addition to other interests and participation, all will be expected to assist in recruiting volunteers from other academic and non-academic sources.

If you have questions or are interested in participating contact Runnymedeamerica@hotmail.com

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THURSDAY

10

- An Evening with Branford Marsalis @ Forbes Concert Hall, tickets range from \$44 to \$50, 8 p.m.
- Murphy's Kids with Philosophunk live @ Blue Nile, tickets \$6, 9 p.m.
- Salsa night @ The Artful Dodger, tickets \$5, 9 p.m.

FRIDAY

11

- The Mantras live @ Clementine Cafe, tickets \$7 before the show and \$10 at the door, 9:30 p.m.
- CHOICES @ JMU



SATURDAY

12

- Flea market @ Ruby's, 9 a.m.
- Madipalooza @ Festival lawn, 1 p.m.
- Chatham County Line with Bombadil @ Clementine Cafe, tickets \$12 before the show and \$15 at the door, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY

13

- Brunch @ Clementine Cafe, Bella Luna, Capital Ale House, Earth & Tea Cafe, The Little Grill and The Blue Nile
- Reverend Billy C. Wirtz live @ Clementine Cafe, tickets \$10, 8 p.m.
- Darkest Hour with Eviscera and Bask @ Blue Nile, tickets \$15, 9 p.m.

WORK

| ‘... Madipalooza really does a lot of good for the campus’



BECKY SULLIVAN / THE BREEZE

View of the main stage at Madipalooza last year from the DJ booth. About 10,000 students attended.

from front

music with a modern flare.

“We try to keep it diverse so everyone will be pleased,” Gordon said. “We also like to have local bands to give something towards the community.”

Gordon has also worked to book the student band, Philosophunk, which won the Rumble Down Under competition earlier this year.

“RDU has been going on a long time, but it wasn’t until recently that we started booking the winner. It’s worked out so well that we’ve kept it,” Gordon said.

A part from concerts, Madipalooza will also bring a number of activities for everyone to enjoy. There will be a number of food challenges, carnival games and inflatables for those attending, and as expected, the photo booth will be returning. It takes a large amount of workers for this festival to be a success and run smoothly, it’s a job Gordon knows all too well.

“Madipalooza is definitely a stressful day with going non-stop, but it’s so rewarding at the same time,” Gordon said.

UPB members not only book the bands, but also help artists set up equipment, a time when many UPB members will unknowingly meet the musicians.

“A lot of times artists will help with the equipment and people won’t realize who they are,” Smith said. “It’s really great to see that the artists are just like normal people.”

However, there’s more to organizing this event than booking bands and hauling equipment. Security has become a main concern

“We’ve even had people crawling under the stage to get to performers.”

Whitney Smith
Center stage
director of University
Program Board

for the organization, as last year members had multiple issues with students forcing their way backstage.

“We’ve even had people crawling under the stage to get to performers,” Smith said. “A lot of people don’t take the volunteers seriously when they’re told to stay back, so a main change we’re making this year is having members of UPB wear their bright blue shirts as opposed to the normal, purple Madipalooza shirts.”

The festival will also see a step-up in physical barriers to prohibited areas as well as wristbands to keep attendance within the JMU community. To ensure only students, faculty and guests of such are allowed in, students show their JACard upon entrance and receive a plastic wristband. Purple wristbands are given to JMU students, while gold bracelets are given to their guests. This not only keeps the event exclusive, but also allows for attendance records and counting.

Helping amid the chaos of planning and organizing is Eric Sites, point person for Sarah Gordon. The sophomore management major will take over Gordon’s position as spotlight sounds director next year, and in the meantime works as her assistant.

“Through it all I’ve learned that there’s a ton of work involved with the festival — it’s not just for fun,” Sites said. “It’s all worth it in the end, though. Last year, it was all I heard about for weeks; Madipalooza really does a lot of good for the campus and works to bring people together.”

CONTACT Mollie Jones at jones2mj@dukes.jmu.edu.

HISTORY

| ‘... it’s a whole day of fun and unique carnival-type activities’



JAMES CHUNG / THE BREEZE

Students packed the Festival lawn to see Shwayze perform as the headliner at Madipalooza last year.

from front

students but also wanted to create an active component so that students could stay the whole afternoon instead of just staying for one or two bands. This is where the bouncy houses, free food and giveaways come into play.

“This is a great time for the JMU community to come together and have fun,” Shelly Lorenzo, an academic and career advisor in Career and Academic Planning and the co-chair for the marketing committee for Madipalooza, said. “We’re in the home stretch near the end of the semester so it’s a great time to pause and enjoy our time together before finals.”

Once all of this was decided, the group knew what kind of budget they would need to organize such an event. Madipalooza is funded mostly by support from student-fee funded departments. The biggest contributor is usually the Office of Residence Life.

The committee also had to make a decision on where to hold the festival.

“We wanted to have a spot that wouldn’t be attractive to the community to come into,” Bobbitt said. “Initially we thought about doing it on the Quad ... but with it opening up to Main Street and with so many ways into the Quad we were concerned about how we would make sure that this was a JMU event.”

According to Bobbitt, the placement of the buildings on the Festival lawn helped keep the event more exclusive to JMU students and their guests. Festival lawn is more spacious, which was taken advantage of last year with a jump of about 4,000 attendees last year from the initial 6,000 in 2011.

Bobbitt believes that one element of Madipalooza that makes it so successful is the huge role that students play in the organization of the event.

“We decided right off the bat that we needed to get a big student voice,” Bobbitt said. The Madipalooza committee is usually half-student and half-faculty. “The idea is that the students drive the idea of ‘here’s what we should do’ and the staff

are able to say ‘this is how we’re going to implement it.’”

This model seems to be a success. Not only has the attendance grown in the past three years, but there has also been a positive response from students that attend.

“I like that it’s a whole day of fun and unique carnival-type activities that are free,” Kelly Vingelis, a senior communication studies major who has been to the past two Madipaloozas, said. “The atmosphere is so positive and everyone seems to be enjoying themselves. It’s great that the university provides something like this for students.”

The committee members can’t wait to see how many students will come out to Madipalooza this year to enjoy free food, games, live music and hopefully some sun.

“We want people to come out and have a good time,” Bobbitt said. “And it’s looking like the weather is going to be good, so we should be in good shape.”

CONTACT Lauren Hunt at breezearts@gmail.com.



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MEN'S TENNIS (7-10)



A melting pot of foreign flavor

Men's tennis adjusts to having six international players as well as six freshmen

MATT SCHMACHTENBERG / THE BREEZE

Sophomore Maxi Branth hails from Stockholm, Sweden and is one of six international players on the team. Eight players make up the team, six are freshmen and two are sophomores.

By GABRIELLE SMITH
contributing writer

The men's tennis team is no stranger to adversity this season. From its youth to its international flavor, the Dukes had to battle through it all.

JMU has the youngest team in the Colonial Athletic Association, with six freshmen and two sophomores. Just two of those players are from the United States, while the rest are from countries spanning the globe.

The Dukes' youth was a crutch early on, but they've been working to get past it.

"We got killed a few times at the beginning of the season, but we've been building step-by-step and just going match-by-match," freshman Milan Ruzic said.

Players and head coach Steve Secord, who is in his 18th season, agree that the team is progressively growing and improving as the season goes on.

"The team is really good," Secord said. "They're really young and talented and they work hard."

Aside from freshmen Brett Moorhead and Mason Smith, from Midlothian and Norfolk respectively, the rest of the team is made up of players from Canada, Sweden, Germany, Australia and Mexico.

"It was always a plan when I was around 9 or 10 playing tennis, because the States is really the only place where college sports is like big and you can get an education while playing quite high-level tennis," said Ruzic, an Australian native.

Freshman Sebastian Salinas, from Merida, Mexico, heard about JMU from a hometown friend who previously played at JMU under the tutelage of Secord.

"Once he knew I was looking out for [a] college scholarship, he helped me out and contacted the coach," Salinas said.

With such a diverse team, one would think a language barrier would be an obstacle, but they are able to just brush it off.

"Every once in a while there is some confusion with things, but we just laugh and move on," Secord said.

The whole team lives together in Ikenberry Hall in the Village. Practicing, living and going to school together may seem like a lot of time spent with one other — maybe too much — but Ruzic said "I wouldn't pick anyone better than our team."

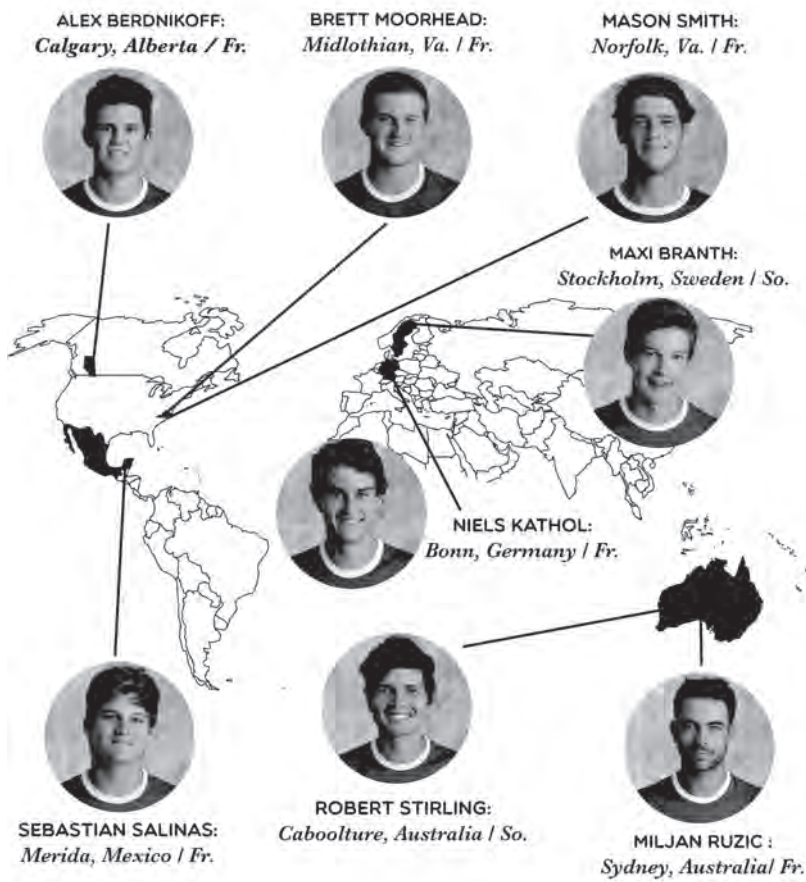
Ruzic and Salinas did not know what to expect from American tennis, but they've learned to play not just for themselves, but also for their team.

"If you don't play well you're going to let your team down and that's a big learning curve for me," Ruzic said.

The winter weather earlier in the semester was another obstacle for JMU. When the weather prevented the team from practicing on the Hillside courts, they were forced to commute to nearby Bridgewater College to use its indoor courts.

"It's hard because we have only two courts

see **TENNIS**, page 10



BLAIR ROSEN / THE BREEZE

TRACK & FIELD

Let's take this outside

With warmer weather comes the competitive outdoor season for JMU track & field

By ANDY LOHMAN
The Breeze

As the weather grows warmer and students emerge from their beds to enjoy the sun on the Quad, the JMU women's track & field team moves outside as well.

After a successful indoor season in which senior distance runner Katie Harman won the mile run at the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Championships, the Dukes have transitioned into the outdoor portion of the season.

"I think we did some really good things, especially at the end of the season at the ECAC Championship meet," head coach Ta' Frias said of JMU's indoor schedule. "I think we have definite room for improvement, but as a whole I think we had a great season."

The team views the outdoor meets as the main events of their season, using the indoor events as a primer.

"The outdoor season is more of our main season," junior distance runner Morgan Sheaffer said. "Just putting all of our training into getting better and doing our best to do better than we did in indoor."

Now three months into competition, training for the outdoor events has become more technical. "In outdoor, we pretty much have all of our base training down," Sheaffer said. "We work more on techniques for racing and getting down good race strategies."

Most of the Dukes' schedule is spent traveling around Virginia to places like Fairfax and Charlottesville for meets. Occasionally the team will go up and down the East Coast as well to locations such as Philadelphia and Princeton, N.J. This year, they went as far as the campus of Notre Dame University in South Bend, Ind.

And for the first time in two years JMU will host its own meet, the JMU Invitational, on April 19 at University Park.

"I think it's going to be really exciting," freshman distance runner Tessa Mundell said. "And hopefully we get a lot of students to come. It's on the new track and it's going to be an exciting, really good meet."

The Dukes will also host the Colonial Athletic Association Championships the first weekend in May. It's an event unique to the outdoor calendar, and a point of emphasis in the team's goals.

"The goal is to go very strong into the CAA championship meet," Frias said. "The difference between outdoor and indoor is that we do have a conference championship meet. We're strong con-

tenders for that meet, we want to go out and hopefully be on top."

The team hopes that having their friends and family in the stands will give them a home-field advantage.

"Having the students that will hopefully come cheer us on ... you know other schools won't [have the support]," Mundell said.

Competing at a venue that they're used to will be a comfort for them as well. "It's going to bring in just a different level of excitement," Frias said. "This is one of the few chances that we get to host and it allows that hometown kind of advantage. We're familiar with the facility and you have that different kind of excitement when you're at home."

The relay teams have been a powerhouse for JMU this season, with the 4x800 and 4x100 groups



PHOTO COURTESY OF JMU ATHLETICS

Freshman Morgan Crewe leaps over the high jump bar at the Liberty Collegiate Invitational on April 4.

earning qualifying times for the ECAC Outdoor Championships at separate meets on March 29 and April 5, respectively.

Despite the team's success there is still room for improvement, with cohesion being an area of emphasis.

"It's a young squad," Frias said. "There's a lot of chemistry that comes into play with the relays for them to be doing very well at this point. They're kind of getting to know each other and each fits into a dynamic of the race."

A strong team mentality is the key to the relay groups' success.

"We've just had a really good, strong bond," Mundell said. "We can all trust each other and really rely on each other and know that when we get the baton, our teammates are going to do the best that they can possibly do."

This Saturday the Dukes will take the team bond to the Mason Spring Invitational at George Mason University before returning to Harrisonburg for the JMU Invitational a week later.

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GYMNASTICS | ‘Spirit all there’

from front

earned them their first title.

“We were at the banquet, sitting in a circle holding hands during the results,” Hayden said. “When they called our name for first place, it was amazing.”

The championship lineup included Hayden and fellow senior Morgan Byrd; juniors Alexandra Daczkowski, Alyssa Seay and Victoria Severin; sophomore Brittany French; and freshmen Kelsey O’Connor, Kellie Hayden, Courtney DeDea and graduate student Lauren Daly.

The Dukes take pride in and thrive off the way their club is team-oriented. According to Byrd, the team’s relationship can best be described by the word “camaraderie.” This relationship is demonstrated both in and outside the gym.

“During competition, the team spirit is all there,” Hayden said. “We cheer everybody on and just have a lot of fun with it.”

Others outside of the team seem to notice this. According to Daczkowski, a judge at nationals complimented the team, and said, “In my 35 years of judging I have never seen a team have fun like you guys.”

Outside the gym, the club builds team chemistry through activities such as intramural softball and team trips to IHOP.

The family-like relationship of the club

is also a change from what some members have experienced in their past gymnastics involvement.

“Coming from competing at a Division I program at Central Michigan [University], there is a different dynamic,” Byrd said. “It’s all about love of the sport and representing for your team and school.”

At the club level in high school, competing is more about focusing on the individual. However, the club team at JMU is all about competing as just that — a team.

“It’s much more rewarding and fulfilling competing in a team experience,” Hayden said.

Not only is the club satisfied with the final result of the season, but also with the team’s progress.

“The season went very well, everyone improved,” Hans Olson, a sophomore physics major and captain of the men’s team, said. “We’re just going keep working, hoping to keep improving.”

With one national title under the club’s belt, the seniors of this year’s squad believe their teammates have what it takes to win another.

“It’s harder to keep first place than to improve to win first place,” Byrd said. “With a lot of practice, our teammates have a high chance of winning it again.”

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STEPHEN PROFFITT | estimated proffitt

Moving forward, looking back

MLB replay system is the right thing for the game

Judgment is a cruel facet of life but a grand ingredient in baseball. For decades, the game has been called by nothing more than a pair of eyes. No monitors, no first down markers, no whistles — just the eyes embedded in typically overweight white males.

Everything’s subjective.

As technology evolved, Major League Baseball stood in the shadows of rejection. A game with the amount of tradition and lore that baseball has doesn’t need any freakin’ technology, does it? All right, maybe a little wouldn’t hurt.



During the offseason, an agreement between the MLB Players Association and the World Umpires Association implemented a new replay system for the 2014 season. Simply, each manager was issued a challenge similar to the NFL, without those senseless red flags. Nothing says “tough” and “football” like throwing a weightless red bean bag on the field like a child would throw his binky.

If any part of the challenged play is overturned, managers may contest another play later in the game. A manager is prohibited from challenging more than two plays per game. If the call on the field is upheld, the team has exhausted its opportunity to challenge.

Through Tuesday, there have been 113 games played since Opening Day. I went game by game and calculated 40 challenges thus far. After umpires apply their hard-wired headsets adjacent to home plate and communicate with the MLB headquarters in New York, 23 calls have been upheld while 17 have been overturned. Around 42 percent of the time, an umpire’s eyes have deceived him. These numbers are good and the new system, so far, is a home run.

Now, I’ve seen some calls here and there that probably should’ve been overturned, but then you are required to plunge into the whole indisputable evidence matter. The NFL struggles with that, but the pros of an objective call outweigh the cons of surmountable evidence.

Originally, I was quite agitated by the talk of replay in baseball — the greatest sport ever played. There’s something about sports where any paltry portion of conservatism in me seeps out. I think the sport should be kept conventional, but even with challenges baseball can remain traditional. People should adapt to baseball because baseball will never adapt to you.

Now, I’d like to reference a bigwig, ESPN’s Colin Cowherd, and how replays can address a larger so-called problem. In Cowherd’s book “You Herd Me,” he discusses how conservatism has hindered progress in our pastime.

“The GOP and MLB: similar qualities, similar problems,” he inked in his “Conservative Backlash” chapter comparing baseball to the

Republican party. “Baseball is still waxing philosophical about its hallowed records and calling it entertainment when people dressed as sausages and dead presidents run around the field. It’s institutional stagnation.”

To set the record straight, Cowherd is dead on with some of this, but he also historically dislikes the sport. I listen to large portions of his show daily. As I write this, he is in my earholes griping about the “Steroid Era” and “four-hour games.” He’s discussing a recent Buster Olney column where an MLB executive recommends games be shortened to seven innings. That statement is laughable because it’ll never happen.

You can’t pretend to be someone you’re not. Baseball will never be a cutting edge sport the way people want it to be. Electronic strike zone? I didn’t make that term up, which is the scariest thing. Would that be considered job outsourcing?

Making baseball into some progressive sport will not regain its younger demographic that many report they have detrimentally lost. I’m young and I watch hundreds of games a year, and I’m not alone in that. Problems like this, in my opinion, do not exist in the sport, they exist in its constituency. I loved baseball before replay, but now it’s successfully added a new layer of interest.

The replay system is a great step for baseball because it helps bring a level of excitement and anticipation to the game. Before challenges, managers would aimlessly waste time kicking dirt and jarring at umpires. Nothing screams progression like two heavy-set males arguing over a call that cannot be changed.

“Evolving is not conceding,” Cowherd said to conclude the chapter.

I love this quote because baseball will never be defeated. This application of objective technology will only help the game exponentially, and now being nine days into the season, I’m confident in saying that. While people debate whether football will be the next boxing, dissolving into the murky realm of pay-per-view sports because of its refusal to admit brutality, baseball will stay a constant. Replays are a mitigated way of progression.

They may help to shorten games. On Opening Day, the Cubs were the first team to issue a challenge. It took umpires 98 seconds to uphold the call made on the field. It use to take Bobby Cox that much time to get out of the dugout to argue.

So while everyone remains critical of steroids and boredom in baseball, let’s take a second to laud MLB on its utilization of a problem solver. Judgement remains prevalent in the game, and when replays come charging down the third base line, there’s no need to challenge — they’re safe at home.

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TENNIS | Last match Saturday

from page 11

and we’re eight guys, so it’s harder to practice,” Salinas said.

Despite the negative consequences of the snow on the team’s practice, it was the first time Salinas had seen snow.

“I love [the snow] but for practice I don’t like it a lot because we have to play on indoor courts and I would rather play outdoors,” Salinas said.

Not only did the weather affect the team’s ability to practice, but it also harmed the actual surface of the JMU courts.

“There’s a lot of cracks and things and I’m scared they’re going to hurt themselves,” Secord said.

As the season comes to a wrap with only one match left before the CAA championships, the tennis team just hopes to continue to find itself in a good place for the tournament next weekend in Williamsburg.

“Always play to win, but it’s more about getting competitively in the right frame of mind for that last tournament,” Secord said.

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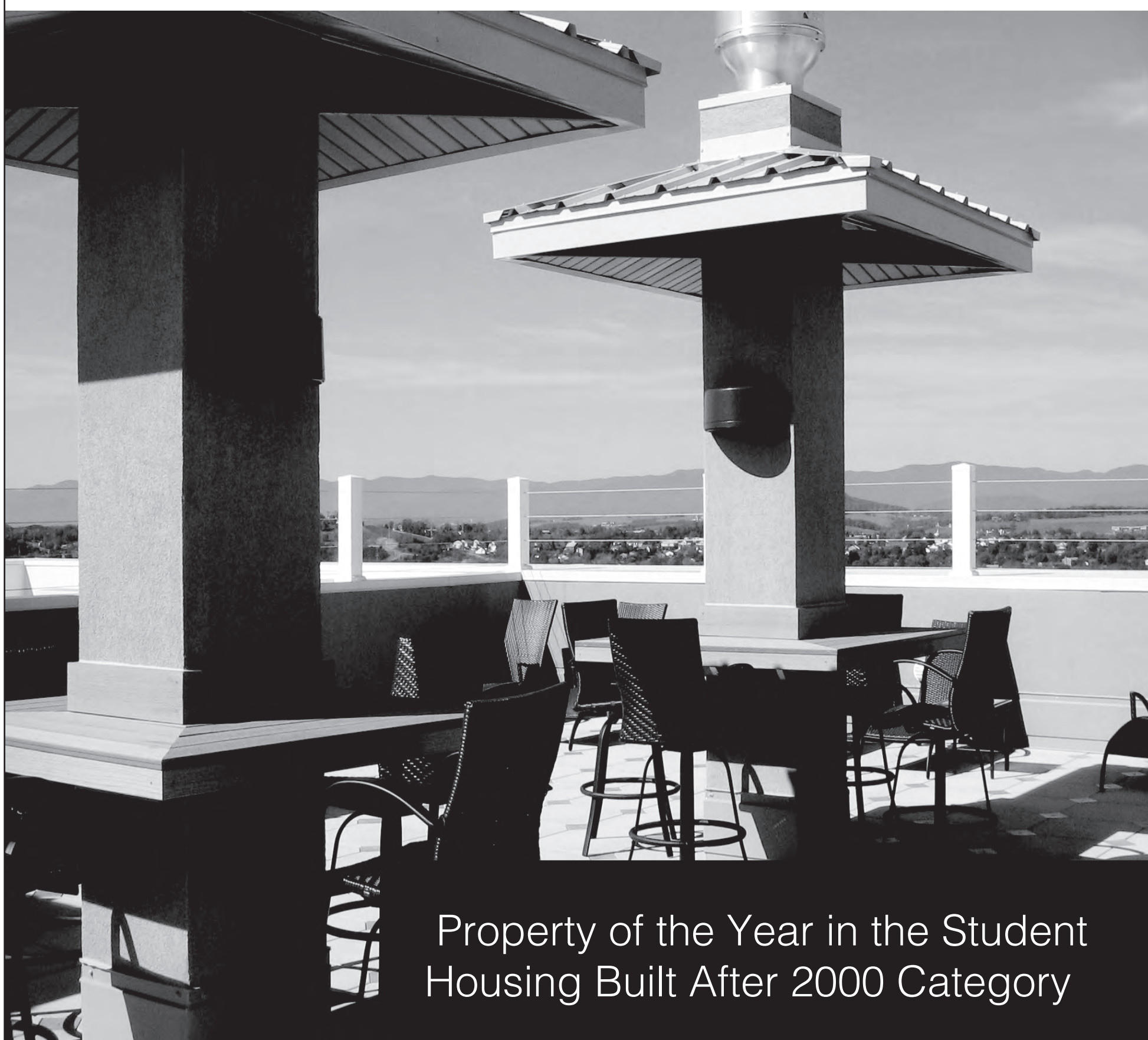
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